

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 1 JUNE 1949

SUBJECT Bullet-Proof Tire Production at  
the Svít Tire Plant

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. Originally the production of bullet-proof tires was to be assigned to the Rubena firm in Nachod [REDACTED] or the same firm in Prague. For security reasons, however, this production has now been assigned to Svít in Gottwaldov (formerly Zlín) [REDACTED]. The reason is said to be that the Rubena plants in Nachod and Prague are located too far to the west.

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2. Production is still in the experimental stage. The following two methods are in use:

Method "A": This is similar to production of the British "Firestone", where a 1½ cm thick "plate" of good, durable rubber is superimposed on the inside of a standard tire casing. A pistol shot penetrates only to this rubber plating and does not harm the tire tube. The weight of the tire is increased 15 percent by the addition of this plating.

Method "B": This involves the manufacture of a so-called "autoplast", which is filled with a special "serva" consisting of crude rubber in a semi-liquid state. If the tire is fired at, the bullet goes right through, but the hole is immediately sealed from the inside by the semi-liquid crude rubber with which the tube is filled. The tire is mounted while hot on a special disc, from which it is not detachable. The tire therefore cannot be repaired and must be discarded when damaged. Production by this method is more expensive than by method "A".

3. Chief Engineer frn Kosal, who has visited tire factories in the USSR, is in charge of experiments on these tires. The experiments are performed in the laboratory of the Svít works.

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4. Tires produced by method "A" have been tested by Kosar with the assistance of the chief of the security department of the Svit works, J. Kysely. Tires were fired at with a 7.65 mm pistol, and it was ascertained that projectiles penetrated a rubber plating of 7 mm thickness but not a plating of 9 mm. Firing tests are now being made with army rifles, tommy guns, and machine guns. It is believed that these tires will not resist machine gun fire.
5. Experiments on tires produced by method "B" have not yet begun.

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